

CLAIMS

1. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:
 - a tuner (22) operative to tune a frequency including emergency alert signals indicating an emergency event; and
 - a memory (27) operative to receive and store updated information associated with the emergency alert function.
2. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 1, wherein the updated information comprises geographical area information.
3. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 2, wherein the geographical area information comprises a FIPS location code.
4. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 1, wherein the updated information comprises transmission frequency information.
5. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 1, wherein the updated information is provided via a website.
6. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 5, further comprising a processor (27) operative to automatically enable a connection to the website responsive to the emergency alert signals.
7. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 6, wherein the processor (27) is further operative to enable an alert output responsive to the emergency alert signals.

8. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 5, wherein the emergency alert signals include hyperlink data that enables access to the website.

9. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 1, wherein the updated information is automatically provided on a periodic basis.

10. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 1, wherein the updated information is used to setup the emergency alert function.

11. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

tuning means (22) for tuning a frequency including emergency alert signals indicating an emergency event; and

memory means (27) for receiving and storing updated information associated with the emergency alert function.

12. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 11, wherein the updated information comprises geographical area information.

13. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 12, wherein the geographical area information comprises a FIPS location code.

14. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 11, wherein the updated information comprises transmission frequency information.

15. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 11, wherein the updated information is provided via a website.

16. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, further comprising processing means (27) for automatically enabling a connection to the website responsive to the emergency alert signals.

17. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 16, wherein the processing means (27) further enables an alert output responsive to the emergency alert signals.

18. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein the emergency alert signals include hyperlink data that enables access to the website.

19. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 11, wherein the updated information is automatically provided on a periodic basis.

20. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 11, wherein the updated information is used to setup the emergency alert function.

21. A method (300) for controlling a television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

tuning a frequency including emergency alert signals indicating an emergency event (302); and

receiving and storing updated information associated with the emergency alert function (305).

22. The method (300) of claim 21, wherein the updated information comprises geographical area information.

23. The method (300) of claim 22, wherein the geographical area information comprises a FIPS location code.

24. The method (300) of claim 21, wherein the updated information comprises transmission frequency information.

25. The method (300) of claim 21, wherein the updated information is provided via a website.

26. The method (300) of claim 25, wherein the television signal receiver (20) is automatically connected to the website responsive to the emergency alert signals.

27. The method (300) of claim 26, further comprised of providing an alert output responsive to the emergency alert signals.

28. The method (300) of claim 25, wherein the emergency alert signals include hyperlink data that enables access to the website.

29. The method (300) of claim 21, wherein the updated information is automatically provided on a periodic basis.

30. The method (300) of claim 21, further comprised of enabling use of the updated information to setup the emergency alert function (301).